
1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

FAMILY READINESS GROUP NEWSLETTER

([HTTP://WWW-25IDL.ARMY.MIL/UNIT_FRAME.ASP?UNIT_ID=62](http://WWW-25IDL.ARMY.MIL/UNIT_FRAME.ASP?UNIT_ID=62))

4th Quarter 2004



LTC Stephen M. Christian

Inside This Issue:

- Commander's Notes
- Hellhound Battery
- Attack Battery
- Beast Battery
- Chaplain's Corner

Commander's Notes

I have the most sincere wish that this letter finds you well and in good spirits. I can honestly say that you are never far from our hearts. Not a day goes by where "home" does not cross a deployed Soldier's mind. We hold our loved ones closer than ever as we continue to proceed on our mission.

Our assignments are going well. 1-62 ADA is building a

strong name for itself as we continue to excel and perform impeccably. I am not only proud to be a part of the Aim High Battalion but honored to serve with such outstanding Soldiers. Although our mission may become difficult at times, it is not only our duty as Soldiers, but also a necessity for freedom that we continue.

This 4th of July, in a land far away from home, I realized what the meaning of freedom is and why it is worth fighting for. Typically, we as Americans celebrate our independence, the birth of our democracy, and most importantly our freedom. However, this Independence Day was one of reflection rather than festivity. In a land where independence is an undulating concept with vast uncertainties...I realized how truly fortunate we are in the United States. Day in and day out we continue with our lives to the best of our abilities. We lead a chaotic existence-both at the home front and forward. Between duties, appointments, family, friends, and chores- our hands are full.

Often our lives are so busy we tend to forget that along the lines of getting from here to there we are lucky to have simply arrived in America, on our soil, and be a part of the

greatest nation in the world. Not only because of the people it is comprised of, but also because of the opportunities we have. To live, love, laugh, worship, speak, and serve. Anyone can understand what the word freedom means, but until you have witnessed a country baron of our ideals it is difficult to truly empathize. And this is where our freedom of service becomes tantamount to our existence as Americans. We must serve our country by fighting for what is right, and protecting what we value.

Ultimately, it comes down to the fact that we serve our country because we believe in it and what it represents. We believe in our great nation, it's great people, and our noble dreams. Our beliefs are worth fighting for. Our families are worth fighting for. Freedom is worth fighting for. And these temporary sacrifices of today ensure our nations free and permanent future tomorrow.



Hellhound Battery

HELLHOUNDS and Fourth of July from HHB! The last three months have seen some changes in the Hellhound

Battery and there are sure to be more to follow. Here are some of the highlights in the Battery news on all of our great accomplishments last quarter, and all of our events coming up next quarter.

Battery News

During the third quarter, the Hellhounds conducted an internal command inspection in order to assess the overall readiness of the battery. Many soldiers put forth tremendous efforts to contribute to the success of the CI and received awards. In April, Hellhound soldiers were instrumental in the successful deployment of the Attack Battery to Afghanistan. In May, We deployed an NCO to Exercise Cobra Gold in Thailand to serve as the G1 representative from 25th ID. The month of June brought our Army's Birthday and the Army Birthday Ball. Several HHB soldiers attended the ball and SFC Gallano served on the USARPAC Color Guard Detail. We finished up the quarter with a successful cleanup of Mokuleia Beach, after which control of the beach was handed back over to the State of Hawaii.

During the fourth quarter, we will focus on garrison operations and deployment readiness. We will conduct training in urban orienteering, first aid, and small arms qualification. We will also continue to conduct challenging Sergeant's Time Training and physical training to ensure that all soldiers and leaders are ready to deploy on

a moments notice should they get the call. Additionally, we will participate in the post clean-up and MAJ Cook and CSM Grant will attend the World Wide Air and Missile Defense Conference at Fort Bliss, TX.

The Family Readiness Group continues to support the spouses of our deployed Aim High Soldiers as well as the Rear Detachment. They are currently planning a Battalion Picnic for the month of July for all Soldiers and family members. We look forward to a great turnout.

HELLHOUNDS!
Mahalo for supporting our soldiers!
Captain Bob Gambrell

Congratulations to all of the following Soldiers:

Anniversaries

Sitonius & Loretta Holloman	3 Jul
Virgil & Kimberly McCloud	4 Jul
Eugenio & Tosha Dejesus	5 Jul
Cheryl & Anthony Herrera	7 Jul
Susie & Robert Johnston	28 Jul
Angel & Mayra Padilla	17 Jul
Matt & Rachel Skyles	9 Aug
Amy & Charles Johnson	12 Aug
Angel & Richard Ramelb	12 Sep
Kimberley & Michael Calhoun	25 Sep

Soldier Birthdays

SGT Caswell	2-Jul
PV2 Drouet	3-Jul
SGT Lucas	8-Jul
SGT Herrera	27-Jul
SSG Calhoun	31-Jul
MSG Spring	1-Aug
SPC Hollomon	6-Aug

1-62 ADAR Newsletter

SPC Kloiber	12-Aug
SSG Davies	16-Aug
SGT Moore	19-Aug
2LT Haas	24-Aug
SPC Starling	25-Aug
SSG Stelmashuk	26-Aug
SGT McCarthy	28-Aug
CPT Gambrell	3-Sep
SSG Mingo	4-Sep
PFC Moreland	9-Sep
PV1 Kisamore	10-Sep
PV2 Revelle	11-Sep
SPC Ramelb	14-Sep
SGT Robinson	27-Sep
SPC Howell	29-Sep

Spouse Birthdays

Jimmy Perez Munson	15 Jul
Angel Ramelb	4 Aug
Nicole Revelle	23 Aug
Katie Sinchak	27 Aug
Alexander Ramsey	2 Sep
Brenda Turner	14 Sep
Loretta Holloman	30 Sep

Children's Birthdays

Rachael Springs	9 Jul
Jasmie Johnston	13 Jul
Sytentenechia Holloman	14 Jul
Felicia Aull	21 Jul
Jada Hunt	23 Jul
Tyler Adricula	24 Jul
Cameron Hunt	26 Jul
Darian Brown	11 Aug
Laquallays Holloman	18 Aug
Christina Dent	26 Aug
Gladys Padilla	27 Aug
Emily Sinchak	30 Aug
Luxcherie Dent	1 Sep
Christopher Dent	2 Sep
Jordan Ramelb	10 Sep
Anthony Alire	12 Sep
Jayden Dowell	17 Sep
Isabella Latham	23 Sep
Kaitlynn Gant	29 Sep
Victor Spring	30 Sep

Battalion Re-Enlistments

SPC Anderson (Alpha)

3

SGT Aull (Rear D)
SGT Blackwell (Bravo)
SSG Chaviera (HHC AVN)
SPC Crane (Bravo)

Awards

SGT Brown - AAM
SGT Ladson - AAM
SGT Aull - AAM
SGT Co - AAM
SPC Valenti - AAM
SGT Moore - AAM
SGT Tucker - AAM
SPC Kloiber - AAM
SPC Reinheimer - AAM

Promotions

PV2 Larson to PFC 1 Jun
SSG(P) Gallano to SFC 1 Jun
SPC Ramelb to SGT 1 Jul
SPC Hollomon to SGT 1 Jul
PV2 Drouet to PFC 17 Jul

“Aloha”

To our New Soldiers and their family's, Welcome!
SSG Caffee

“Aloha”

To our Soldiers and families who have or will be leaving soon, we thank you for all your hard work and the excellent job you've done here. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

SPC Reinheimer
SPC Valenti
PFC Moreland
PVT Kisamore
PFC Burgess

Deployed Soldiers

Here's where our HHB soldiers are deployed.

Division Support/Iraq

MAJ White

1-25 AVN/Iraq

1LT Stewart
CPT Dengler
SFC Sutton
SPC McNeely
SPC Pagan
SPC Shaw
SPC Williams, J

CFC/Afghanistan

1LT Kwart
1LT Senthill
CPT Mahler
CPT Mays
CPT McKnight
CPT Ramirez
CPT Webb
CW2 Berett
LTC Christian
MAJ Emmer
MSG Stonerock
SPC Alcorn
SPC Fletcher
SSG Saribay
SSG Vautaw

HQ ADCOORD/OEF

1LT Sedrak
CW2 Piret
MAJ Stephens
SFC Langston
SPC Norris
SPC Smith
SSG White, S

HHC Aviation BDE

CPT Moore
SFC Lewis
SGT Jackson
SPC Stewart
SSG Chaviera

HHB FRG News Recap

Aloha everyone,

First and foremost, I would like to thank Martina Stonerock for her tireless dedication and

1-62 ADAR Newsletter

selfless service to the FRG. I look forward to building upon the firm foundation which you set.

During the third quarter, we conducted the Battalion Easter egg hunt. A lot of people donated candy to fill the eggs and their time to make this event a great success. I would like to extend my warmest thanks to the family members who provided us with delicious food for our potluck. A lot of work was done behind the scenes: cleaning up Bowen Park, mowing the grass, providing supplies for our potluck, and putting up the basketball nets. Thanks to SSG Erickson, SGT Robinson, LT Haas, SGT Caswell, PVT Stiffey, PVT Burgess, and the 1SG, everything happened in a timely manner. The kids and families appreciated your hard work.

We also participated at the Fun Fest where we ran a game booth. Many thanks to the following people who came out to help us: Jeanann Stewart, Martina Stonerock, MSG McCloud and his wife Kim.

There will be no FRG meeting for the month of July. The next one will be held on 18 August and every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm at the ACS Building thereafter. I hope to see you there!

Kelly Gambrell

FRG Contact Info

FRG Leader	Kelly Gambrell 638-5346
Treasurer	Miho Mahler

	685-2578
Secretary	Laura Christian
	624-3044
Staff PLT POC	Open
1-25 AVN POC	Jeanann Stewart
	625-2246
ADCOORD	
POC	Dana McKnight
	629-8385
CFC POC	Toya Webb
	688-1507
HQ PLT POC	Open
AVN BDE POC	Open
Support PLT	
POC	Open



Commander's Corner

Aloha to all our families and friends! It is a huge honor for me to be writing this note to all of you in our first full month of deployment in Afghanistan, and our first monthly newsletter!

The intent of this newsletter is four-fold. First, it is an opportunity for the leadership to share news with the families of what is going on in the platoons – promotions, awards, important dates, and more. Second, it gives Soldiers an opportunity to share pictures, and input as well. Third, we will put out command information to keep all of us informed on any information related to our mission and deployment that can be put out in a general format as this. Finally, we will dedicate a space to those sponsors and adopted ATTACK Battery family members that have been so generous and kind to send gifts and packages to all of us over the past month. Now – on to business.

As the Battery arrives 100% in Afghanistan, each

1-62 ADAR Newsletter

platoon and every Soldier has been extremely busy. I have already sent a number of reports home on all the different missions ATTACK Battery has undertaken. Providing an air picture to the Brigade Combat Team, convoy security missions to keep local roads safe for travel, vehicle check points to ensure travelers are safe, perimeter security to keep our forward bases safe, ground security elements for tactical intelligence teams, liaisons to the French Special Forces, and liaisons to the United Nations. In every instance, your Soldiers are doing an outstanding job. They are serving with honor, they are creating hope, they are building trust, they are making the vision of enduring security for Afghanistan a reality – one day at a time.

Besides all the great things that our Soldiers are doing and are a part of, we have had the honor to welcome a growing number of “extended” ATTACK Battery family members. These family members come from a growing list of States from across the mainland and are a part of something I never expected,

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HQ Platoon
1LT James Fe'a-Fiame

med. Folks from California, Texas, Wisconsin, Indiana, North Carolina, West Virginia, Louisiana, Michigan, and our Ohana in Hawaii have become a part of a support network that has provided over 60 boxes, packages and letters in just the month of May – sending things like all sorts of personal



Attack Battery

hygiene items, movies, magazines, books, candy, coffee, cookies, chips, crackers, footballs, volleyballs, and even a big box of beanie babies to our Soldiers.

The point to all this is simple. Ms. Lisa Bodkin of West Virginia, a senior in high school, stated that she thought we were "true heroes." I will tell you that there are many heroes over here, and although there are daily examples and expressions of courage, duty, honor, and ALL the Army Values among our Troops, we witness the same from YOU – Family Members and Supporters of ATTACK Battery. You are true heroes and patriots as well, and we thank you. I hope to continue our dialogue and interaction over the course of the next year. This is a marathon, not a sprint. God bless all of you! Pray for us and pray for the continuing rebuilding and reconstruction of Afghanistan. It is a country of a proud and fierce people that deserve enduring security, freedom, and peace.

"ATTACK!"

Captain Todd A. Schmidt

Alo-o-o-o-o-oha! From Afghanistan to all friends and family back in the U.S. During our first month of deployment we have found ourselves gainfully employed in numerous tasks in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-5. Our transition with our sister battalion A/3-62 ADA from Ft.

Drum, N.Y. could not have been any more effortless. The transfer of authority between the "Warrior Brigade" and the "Bronco Brigade" took place earlier this month on 5 May.

As for the "Wolfpack" Platoon we are slowly adjusting to time zone differences, weather acclimation, and 3rd Brigade's battle rhythm. Currently, the biggest obstacle we face is the rising temperature as we head closer into the summer months.

Coming from Hawaii, known for some of the worlds' greatest beaches, Afghanistan accommodates 3rd Brigade with the largest beach known to any 25th ID soldier. The only problem is there's no water.

Although away from the luxuries that the islands provide, some of us have brought comfort items that remind us of the Great Aloha State. Personally, nothing says Aloha more than a BBQ on the hot sands of Afghanistan. And who can forget spam and rice. You better not leave home without it; I didn't!

Moral is high despite the separation from our loved ones. Pictures and letters fill the walls of individual sleep tents, which help ease the distance. Internet and phones are available through the MWR tent when soldiers just want to hear a familiar voice.

I'd just like to extend a big Mahalo (Hawaiian for "Thank You") to our platoon sponsors for their thoughtfulness in the care packages that we've received. Thank you very much. Until next month, "Wolfpack!!"

1-62 ADAR Newsletter

Soldier's Names

Schmidt	Todd	CPT
Johnson	Hideyoshi	1LT
Ferguson	Byron	1SG
Fe'a-Fiame	James T.	1LT
Williams	Andrew	1LT
Gale	Richard	CW3
Stephens	Ronnie	CW2
Brewer	Paul	SSG
Rodriguez	Raul	SSG
Garcia	Gabriel	SSG
Rogers	Chad	SSG
Cruz	Jose	SGT
Martinez	Cristina	SGT
Razor	Antonio	SGT
Hudson	Michael	SGT
Tucker	Tonya	CPL
Aviles	Hector	SPC
Weller	Robin	SPC
Enstrom	Aaron	SPC
Bair	Nathan	SPC
Miars	Andrew	SPC
Randall	Roger	SPC
Roseburgh	Jason	SPC
Cooper	William	SPC
Anderson	Jermaine	PFC
Spurlock	Matthew	PFC
Dillon	Timothy	PV2
Phillips	Paul	PV2
Cruz	Alvin	PV2
Townes	David	PV2
Cipponeri	Christopher	PFC

Featured Soldier of the Month

SPC Jason Roseburgh:

This daring soldier is our "Featured Soldier" for the month of May. Earlier this week, SPC Roseburgh voluntarily deployed forward to Orgun-E on a search & rescue mission to retrieve a 27th television. (SPC Roseburgh was actually sent to troubleshoot communications equipment in support of 2nd PLT) He described this feat as "vital" to the enhancement of his PS-2 (codename for playstation-2) gaming skills while here in country.

The mission kicked off on the 14th as SPC Roseburgh climbed aboard a CH-47 helicopter bound for Orgun-E. After enduring the nauseous 2hr flight SPC Roseburgh began his journey in search of the television. During his four day ordeal the brave soldier battled through unimaginable events – one being the task of using the outhouses there in Shkin. “The toughest part about it was the muscle failure you go through from hovering over the seat,” he humbly added.

SPC Roseburgh returned on the 18th, now the proud owner of a 27” RCA television. When asked, “Looking back at what you had to go through, if you could do it all over again, would you?” With a smile and a twinkle in his eyes SPC Roseburgh replied, “Anything to serve my country proud.”

For immeasurable bravery and selfless service we recognize SPC Roseburgh as our “*Soldier of Misfortune*.”

Promotions

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

CPL Tucker, Tonya 14 May



CPL Tucker

Anniversaries

Matt & Bridgette Spurlock 07 Jun
Edgar & Cristina Martinez 12 Jun
Jermaine & Shelia Anderson 17 Jun
Aaron & Karrie Enstrom 29 Jun
Katie & Robert Sinchak 30 Jun

Soldier Birthdays

SGT Jose Cruz	5 May
CPT Todd Schmidt	6 May
SPC Robert Sinchak	14 May
SGT Antonio Razor	19 May
SPC(P) Roger Randall	25 May
SGT Marc Ladson	10 Jun
SPC Robin Weller	17 Jun
CW3 Richard Gale	19 Jun
SSG Gabriel Garcia	26 Jun



SGT Razor

Spouse Birthdays

Joy Schmidt	19 May
Nelia Hudson	20 Jun

Children's Birthdays

Alicia Rodriguez	19 May
Jordan Stephens	21 May
Oniya Tucker	25 May
Kyra Ann Brewer	01 Jun



1st Platoon
1LT Jeff Hazard

Dear Family, Friends, and Loved Ones:

Aloha from the members of 1st Platoon, Alpha Battery, 1-62 ADA. This marks the two-week line of our deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. So far everyone has adjusted to the environment very well, especially now since we have the TV and

1-62 ADAR Newsletter

Playstation 2 up and running. Right now we are still in the process of settling down in our area and slowly making improvements to our living space to make our experience here more tolerable. We finally have the whole tent to ourselves and are able to spread out and be a little more comfortable.

To recap the last couple of weeks, the flight over here was approximately 30 hours, with 5 stops before reaching our final destination one week after we departed Schofield Barracks. The Headquarters Base here at Ghazni is not as bad as we suspected. We have a large tent for the platoon where we have a decent amount of living space and just recently set up an entertainment area where we enjoy movies and video games. We'll have an office space set up in the near future. We have shower facilities where we are allowed two showers a week; these can be taken on Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday. I won't explain our toilet situation, but the good news is we are one week away from having a building where at least we'll have some privacy. The dining facility is decent and food isn't half bad. The best part, we believe, is the MWR building where we have access to ten computers and ten telephones, all of which are free and can be used throughout the day. For PT we have a dirt trail that goes around the base and a gym that has a few weights and machines.



2nd Platoon
1LT Miguel Rodriguez

ver the last week and a half that we've been here, our primary duty is to provide security to the base and send our Avenger teams to the other Infantry Companies to assist them with their security. You all should be proud of the members of this platoon as they continue to do their job proudly and honorably. Know that everyone here sends their prayers and love for their respective loved ones at home, and we ask that you do the same for us.

Soldier's Names

Hazard	Jeffrey	1LT
Gonzalez	Joel	SFC
Gebhart	Brian	SSG
Landry	Jeffrey	SSG
Madison	David	SSG
Shafer	John	SSG
Duck	Brandon	SGT
Hicks	Jason	SGT
Jones	Raun	SGT
Malone	Aaron	SGT
Blankenship	David	SPC
Cinka	Jonathan	SPC
Drayton	Vernon	SPC
Mieth	Cory	SPC
Roy	Paul	SPC
Briseno	Kevin	PFC
Thomas	Pernell	PFC
Thornton	Darrell	PFC

Anniversaries

Karen & Jeff Landry 06 Jun

Soldier Birthdays

1LT Jeff Hazard	27 May
SGT Brandon Duck	16 Jun
SPC Paul Roy	21 Jun
PFC Darrell Thornton	29 Jun
SGT Mark Dowell	30 Jun

Children's Birthdays

Riley Hicks	09 May
Mikayla Duck	26 June

From Oahu to Afghanistan With "Deuces Wild!"

By: SSG Lenhert



The trip seemed like an eternity, as we flew east over several miles of the globe.

After we said our "good byes" in J quad, we boarded the buses and moved to D quad and watched other soldiers say good bye. From there we filled the buses to their maximum capacities like cattle on a cattle car and moooved out (get it moo). Once we arrived at Hickam Air Force Base, all we could do was wait – similar to flying Space A, except we had a little more priority. Even though we waited several hours for our plane, it was worth it. There were TV monitors on the back of every headrest and eight channels to choose from. Now the food wasn't anything to brag about but they fed us more times on this flight than the average person eats in a week. And to my knowledge, on this flight, not one soldier required the use of a barf bag. The flight attendants, yes we had flight attendants (don't worry ladies, none of them were cute), they actually seemed happy to serve us food and drinks or what ever else we needed. They even

1-62 ADAR Newsletter

sang karaoke for us. It wasn't very good but it's the thought that counts, right?

This flight made one stop in Newark, NJ to refuel before landing at an airfield in Kyrgyzstan. A country I had never heard of until we landed there. Here some of us stayed one day while others stayed five or six before reaching Kandahar Air Field in Afghanistan. Now KAF, as we like to call it, is a little odd. Imagine you're watching the old TV show MASH and in the middle of their camp you have a coffee house, a very mini mall afghan-style, and a PX. That's KAF. After spending seven days in KAF we boarded helicopters for the flight to our new temporary home.

Orgun-E, small and truly in the middle of nowhere, we had arrived. Little by little everyone was flown in. As we settled in, we realized that it isn't so bad here. We have hot food and showers, a decent gym with a fridge, and power outlets in every room. There is Internet and phone use too. But what the soldiers can say on those phones is limited. So please don't pressure the soldiers to talk about their missions and what they actually do.

Even though a year seems like an eternity, provided that we stay busy it won't feel as long. There is one thing that helps pass the time, mail. It might not seem like much but receiving a letter or a package can make a world of difference. Thank you.

Newlyweds, Nathan and Elizabeth Fox married on April 1st, 2004.



2nd Platoon Soldiers with General Schoomaker

Soldier's Names

Rodriguez	Miguel	1LT
Newsome	Mark	SFC
Barksdale	Christopher	SSG
Diggs	Shawn	SSG
Lenhert	Stephen	SSG
McFarland	Shawn	SSG
Cummings	Matthew	SGT
Grajeda	Hector	SGT
Parker	James	SGT
Castleberry	Paul	SGT
Ochs	Steven	SGT
Robertson	Brandon	SGT
Accardo	Brandon	SGT
Fox	Nathan	CPL
Wiram	Ty	SPC
Cortinas	Ruben	SPC
Fancher	Jason	SPC
Hibbs	Keith	SPC
Hill	Joshua	SPC
Lockman	William	SPC
Reeves	Wade	SPC
Rittenhouse	Daniel	SPC
Tiernan	Dennis	SPC
Delk	Andrew	SPC
Benjamin	Bryan	SPC
Fessler	James	SPC
Eitzen	Steven	PFC
Fahey	Patrick	PFC
Haney	Mark	PFC
Liquori	Joseph	PFC
Walsh	Jonathan	PFC
Jackson	Jermaine	PFC
Boatman	Derrick	PV2
Clavijo	Jose	PV2
Cha-jua	Ade	PV2
Defelice	Derek	PV2
Hirst	Kevin	PV2
Berman	Daniel	PVT
Druckemiller	Charles	PVT
Gilbert	Jason	PVT

Newborns

Congratulations to PV2 Alvin and Maria Cruz on their new addition to the family Deja Lynn-Cruz was born March 4th, 2004

Anniversaries

Penny & Brandon Robertson
07 Jun

Soldier Birthdays

PFC Mark Haney	03 May
SFC Mark Newsome	May 10
SPC William Lockman	May 26
PV2 Charles Druckemiller	02 Jun
SGT Matt Cummings	04 Jun
PV2 Jose Clavijo	24 Jun
PV2 Derek Defelice	27 Jun

Spouse Birthdays

Rachel Liquori	9 May
Heather Gilbert	16 May

Children's Birthdays

Happy Birthday to: Little Miguel Rodriguez Jr. who celebrated his first birthday on May 4th, 2004

Tyler Haney	11 May
Samantha Cortinas	17 May
Alexander Cummings	24 May
Shaun Robertson	30 May
Aili Grajeda	02 Jun
Christine Lenhert	09 Jun
Isaiah Reeves	17 Jun
Bria Diggs	24 Jun



3rd Platoon
1LT Tim Bible

The first chapter of the Warhammers opens with our arrival to Afghanistan. What a wonderful country to visit. We enjoy the company of our host nation and their way of life. In this country we have seen very interesting things, such as children stacking rocks with no purpose. Although amusing, maybe this is how the mountains in this region were

formed.

We are all doing great. No one complains of the altitude sickness, which we thought might happen. The one illness that seems to already affect us all is homesickness.

Third platoon has been tasked to conduct operations as a maneuver platoon in order to provide security for all of our Infantry brothers moving from one place to another. We also provide security for all supplies moving to our Forward Operating Bases in our Area of Operation. Most of the time the soldiers are working 18 hours a day, so if you don't hear from them that is the reason. However, the morale is high and the team is in great spirits. We are excited to be here and to contribute to the ongoing mission and to the expulsion of the Taliban and Al'Qaida.

Soldier's Names

Bible	Timothy	1LT
Ferreira	Juan	SFC
Johnson	Omar	SSG
Kelso	Derrick	SSG
Dodson	Sean	SGT
Gann	Anthony	SGT
Griffith	Jeffrey	SGT
Melander	Nemia	SGT
Sewell	James	SGT
Arciga	Antonio	SPC
Bass	Gary	SPC
Cabrera	Terry	SPC
Morris	Brock	SPC
Ojeda	Gilberto	SPC
Ramirez	Rafael	SPC
Santoyo	Geovanni	SPC
Wilson	Matthew	SPC
Britton	Jason	PFC
Mares	Jose	PFC
Owens	Jason	PFC
Ibarra	Hector	PV2
Wilson	Craig	PVT

Promotions*CONGRATULATIONS!*

SGT Santoyo
SGT Ramirez
SGT Ojeda

Anniversaries

Jeffrey & Pauline Griffith 30 May
Juan & Shannon Ferreira 02 Jun

Soldier Birthdays

1LT Tim Bible – 6 May – “Big 30”!
SPC Antonio Arciga 17 Jun

Spouse Birthdays

Sueheidi Ojeda 25 May
Dina Santoyo 30 May
Bridgette Gann 10 Jun

Children’s Birthdays

Jose Mares 09 May
Kakeo Santoyo 12 May
Tanya Johnson 23 May
Taraneisha Quarles 10 Jun
Roshawn Quarles 15 Jun



J.L.E.N.S. Section
2LT Cynthia Rankin

We flew out of Hawaii and made our first stop in Minneapolis, where we spent a few hours in a luxurious empty terminal. We boarded the plane and flew to Frankfurt, Germany (or so the pilots told us when we woke up), and spent another few hours in the small gift shop or trying to call home.

From there we went to Turkey, most of the soldiers tried to catch a few hours of sleep at the small holding area while the rest watched an AFN broadcast of sports news. Finally we embarked on the last leg of commercial jet travel to Kyrgyzstan, where we spent three days in the finest tents

the Army has to offer, enjoyed Air Force food, and played spades while we waited for our flight to Afghanistan. Due to the wonderful weather conditions, our flight, which was scheduled to leave early Friday morning, was delayed shortly prior to the dinner meal. Luckily, all the soldiers had MRE’s in their bags. Upon landing in Afghanistan we grabbed our bags and went to our new tents and slept until morning. When we woke up we started taking down the old blimp and began the process of putting up our new towers. Everyone has been kept busy setting up the three sites around post, and getting used to the almost constant sunshine during the day. We’ve all been adjusting to our new environment quite well. Everyone back home is in our hearts and minds, while we count the days until our task is complete and we get to tell you about our journey back home.

Soldier’s Names

Rankin	Cynthia	2LT
James	Jeffrey	SFC
Book	Jeremy	SSG
Robinson	Frederick	SGT
Swithers	Greg	CPL
Chen	Terrance	SPC
Kumro	Mark	SPC
Ornellas	Emily	SPC
Boatman	Mary	PFC
Cox	Frankie	PFC
Gosk	Jonathan	PFC
Humbert	Andrew	PFC
Jones	Andrew	PV2
Conway	Nicolas	PVT
Gearheart	Kati	PVT
Jones	Shay	PVT

Anniversaries

Jeremy & Victoria Book 14 May
Frank & Micayla Cox 24 May
Fred & Leslie Robinson 26 May

Soldier Birthdays

SPC Mark Kumro 14 Jun

Spouse Birthdays

Victoria Book 12 May

Children’s Birthdays

Breanna Book 24 Jun



Special Story
ADA Security Team

Well here we are, four ADA Soldiers doing some very different things than any of us thought we would be doing here in Afghanistan, positioned outside the zone where we thought we would be. We live at a small Forward Operation Base that, for all intensive purposes, does not exist. Our day starts just like most of the 1-62 Soldiers – we wake up at about 6 am local and eat breakfast. That is where the similarities end.

After we comb our beards and put on our t-shirts and jeans, we strap on our lightweight bulletproof vests and hip holsters, do some quick maintenance on our Toyota SUV's, and get ready to roll out into the local community. We meet with local government officials, tribal leaders, town elders, army generals, and even warlords – whoever is willing to help us by providing information. We roll into the cities in unmarked, unarmored, and hopefully unknown trucks.

We as the ADA element provide security for the Tactical HumanIntel Team, or THT for short, and act as

guards for the meeting as it happens. We have to look for anything, from the little kids that run up to us wanting candy or the local people that offer us something to drink. We are always on our toes. No one knows who that suicide bomber, Taliban spy, or that local that just doesn't like Americans will be.

There are only 7 or 8 of us out at a time and that isn't much if anyone really wanted to attack us. So, we have to rely on stealth, some very dark tinted windows, turbans to hide our faces, and speed to get there and back safely. On any given day we will go through one of the most populated cities in the country with both civilians and hostiles. Our mission's risk assessment is always high but we always make it back. We must be doing something right, because the intel that this team has gathered has been instrumental to the success of the whole CJTF 180 and we have only been here for 5 weeks.

We still have most of the year to go before we are back with our families and away from the fear that today is the day that we will get attacked. But we keep doing it because risking our lives is a small price to pay for all the lives that could be saved with the information we gather.

Nathan A. Bair



1-62 ADA security team: SSG Chad Rogers, SPC Terry Cabrera, SPC Nathan Bair, SPC Bill Cooper



Spot Light Battery Sponsors

Each month as we publish our little newsletter, our intent is to honor a few of our sponsors that have been so kind and generous in supporting our Soldiers. This is our humble way of saying "THANK YOU"

Many of you have written that you don't require thanks, or even a note to let you know your package arrived, but I have to tell you that we now consider you part of our unit, part of our extended ATTACK Family or "Ohana" as we say in Hawaii.

Please understand that we aren't choosing who we honor by any other method than going down our "thank you" card list. Also, if you feel that you do not wish to be apart of this newsletter, we completely understand. To be taken off, please send an email to todd.schmidt1@us.army.mil or joy.schmidt@us.army.mil. If you don't have email, please send a note via mail to the return address listed on this newsletter.

This month we would like to recognize the following

supporters:

***George A. from Cerritos, CO**
***Kerie, Cindy, and Kelly from Crystal Lake, IL**
***Kim from Grand Rapids, MI**
***Connie B. from Germantown, WI**

I know we sent a thank you note to tell you how much it means to all of us to be the recipient of your thoughtfulness and generosity, but this is our way of thanking you publicly.

*For your privacy, we have not included your full names.

ALPHA FRG Contact List

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Bravo Battery



"THE COST OF FREEDOM IS ALWAYS HIGH, BUT AMERICAN SOLDIERS HAVE ALWAYS PAID IT. AND ONE PATH WE SHALL NEVER CHOOSE, IS THE PATH OF SURRENDER, OR SUBMISSION."

CPT Matt Marbella

COMMANDER'S NOTE

We have all seen the disturbing pictures portrayed on every media; American Soldiers charged with abusing Iraqi prisoners. All of us forward deployed are collectively hurt and immensely offended by the images. It's contradictory to everything we are fighting for and we strongly condemn these acts. Let me assure you that Beast Battery Soldiers are all serving with honor and dignity. We continue to make a difference in Iraq. The battery as a whole is doing a magnificent job and portrays everything that is good as Americans.

I would like to acknowledge the arrival of the Viper Platoon to FOB Warrior. Your outstanding reputation is known throughout the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. I expect your continued stellar performance. On behalf of the Renegade and Outlaw Platoons-- welcome to FOB Warrior.

I am pleased to inform everyone that we continue to improve our force protection measures. First, recent constructions to our container housing units have greatly enhanced our survivability against mortar and rocket attacks. Seven-foot HESCO barriers filled with sand were emplaced around our living areas and nine-foot concrete barrier walls are on the process of being emplaced which offers even greater protection. Second, the roofs of our containers have been hardened with sandbags. Lastly, to counter IEDs and small arms fire during convoy movement, more than half of the battery's combat vehicles are now outfitted with armored doors. The rest are scheduled to be up-armored in the near future. All these should lessen our families' anxiety and provide a greater peace of mind as to our safety. Rest assured that we would never drop our guard nor be complacent. We'll continue to watch over each other closely.

To our top-notch Family Readiness Group, we can never thank you enough for all that you do for us. Thank you for the care packages, letters, and platoon banners. Through your resourcefulness, we have

been receiving overwhelming amount of support from the American people. Patriotic Americans have sent numerous letters and care packages via the Adopt a Platoon Program and "anysoldier.com" which is spearheaded by Mr. Marty Horn. Without your love and support attaining success in the frontline would be difficult.

This 31st of May our great nation celebrates Memorial Day. All of us in the fight have given something; some have given everything -- remember the more than 780 Service Members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Finally, to our families, friends, and "Aim High" brothers in Hawaii and those fighting in Afghanistan, -- HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY. HOOAH!

**From Freedom's Frontline – Iraq,
CPT MATT MARBELLA**

"Stand behind our Soldiers or get in front of them." – Mrs. Lyn Taylor, VA (A proud Army mother.)

THE RENEGADES
HQ Platoon
1LT Corey White
Executive Officer



Welcome back for another adventure in the B/1-62 ADA chronicles, known as OIF-2. Headquarters Platoon stayed busy throughout the month of

May, in fact it flew by. This month CW2 Ben Quesada and I decided to collaborate on the duties of writing this article, in order to capture everything that has gone on. Our allocation for R & R was cut down tremendously due to the lack of aircraft flying in our Area of Operation, but we still managed to send Soldiers home to see their families. SGT White was the first to take off at the end of April, he made it back safely a few days ago. SPC Sullivan and PFC Sedor are still on leave and should be returning shortly.



"Who's got the key? I'll fly it." --- 1SG Alsleben

To make up for the lack of R&R allotments, passes have been awarded to soldiers that have declined R & R or Soldiers that are low on the order of merit list. There are two passes available; one to Lake Dokan, in Northern Iraq and the other is to Qatar. Both allow the soldiers to relax and catch up on some much needed sleep. SGT Thomas and SPC Miguel Ordonez took



SPC Miguel Ordonez and SPC Michael Sullivan holding the line.

advantage of the Lake Dokan pass and had the pleasure of meeting CPA L. Paul Bremer (U.S. Ambassador to Iraq) while they were there. SSG Talmadge Thomas and SPC Jeremy Peterson were able to take advantage of the Qatar pass and were able to visit Chili's and even a mall. Unfortunately not all of our Soldiers were able to enjoy pass or leave, but passed the time working diligently in their respective positions.



PFC Andrew Rounds and SPC Jeremy Peterson defending from up above (Gate 3 Guard Tower)

The gate defense and TCN escort mission, as well as the motor pool operations are still the major events that happen daily. CW2 Quesada is in charge of the motorpool and they have been able to execute their missions without fail. The rest of the platoon is continuing to improve the gate mission and their integration with the Air Force. The Third Country National Escort (TCN) detail has been re-worked and is maintaining its efficiency

1-62 ADAR Newsletter

under the supervision of SSG Michael Brown and SGT Jeffrey Curtis. The gate has just implemented a new X-ray machine that checks all vehicles that come onto the FOB. This ensures everyone's safety on the entire FOB. The Soldiers are the ones that deserve all of the credit! They continuously amaze me; no matter what the situation is they all stay positive. Many Soldiers have volunteered for different missions with other platoons in order to fill any holes they might have.



SPC Richard Long and SGT Nicole Jacob -Gone Postal! Congratulations team. Well done!

Our administrative team of SGT Nicole Jacobs and SPC Richard Long has been doing an outstanding job. They recently received an Air Force Certificate of Achievement for their significant contributions to joint service postal operations. They also ensure that all of the paperwork for Soldiers going on leave and/or pass is complete and filled out properly. This may not seem like a big deal, but a missed document could mean the difference of a Soldier going home or staying in Iraq.



SPC Edward Ramey receives the Air Force's Certificate of Appreciation from 506th Services Squadron Commander. HOOAH!

Carrying on with the Renegade's stellar performance in a joint services environment, on 26MAY SPC Edward Ramey was awarded the 506th Expeditionary Services Squadron's Certificate of Appreciation and a Coin of Excellence for his many contributions to morale enhancing construction projects in the Kirkuk Airbase.



CW2 Ben Quesada

Welcome back to the Motorpool Section. The month of May has been a busy one. This month we've concentrated on servicing our equipment ahead of the scheduled time. Preventive maintenance is the best way to avoid potential problems in the future. With that, said all those, reading this

back at home I recommend you take your vehicle into a service center for an oil change and safety checks, especially can't remember when the last time your vehicle was serviced. It may save you a lot of money in the long run.

This month I'm profiling my right hand man **SGT Jonathan Delice**. When I first arrived in the Unit last June, my last Motor Sergeant was leaving the unit to another duty station. Knowing that I had an upcoming training exercise and a potential deployment,



SGT Jonathan Delice

I had to find an experienced Sergeant to help me run the motorpool. I didn't even get out of the motorpool gates when SGT Delice stopped me in my tracks and asked me to give him the opportunity to run the show. I never looked back and I certainly have no regrets for giving him the opportunity to be the Motor Sergeant. At that time I am sure he had no idea of the amount of work and long hours it would take to do this job effectively. His youthful energy and never ending thirst for knowledge resulted in a successful year as Motor Sergeant. I am very proud of this young man for his contributions to our unit.

1-62 ADAR Newsletter

Promotion

To Private First Class-
Andrew Rounds



Birthdays

10 June - Monica Delice
03 June - SPC Michael Sullivan
22 June - SGT Jeffrey Curtis



Wedding Anniversary

SPC Jeremy and Frances
Peterson

THE OUTLAWS

1st Platoon
1LT Matt Keane
Platoon Leader



Something very special happened in the Outlaw Platoon this month. Something that few could understand and even fewer could truly appreciate. That's right, it was

the inaugural celebration of "Moustache May." It was a platoon wide celebration of all the facial hair that Army regulations will allow. Some of the Outlaw grew some amazingly beautiful moustaches, while some of us grew some amazingly ridiculous food collectors. From our baby faced SGT Mike Jones with his four hairs a month's time, to SSG C.J. Parow's full-bodied red hues, my blond tresses only visible from under three feet away, and even PFC Michael Pedersen's inch long gap between his two neatly trimmed patches of hair, it was a sight indeed. SFC Jason Erron and SPC Brian Walker had a leg up on the rest of us with their ever-present lip warmers. Even a few non-Outlaws got in on the action. The XO, 1LT Corey White, was a staunch supporter of the event and sported a classy



look with no hair on his head, but a very noticeable smudge of dirt under his nose. Being the trendsetters that we are, we suspect that this new tradition will have spread nearly Army wide by next May. We have yet to vote on just who has the best, and who sports the worst, but rest assured you will see the results in next month's

newsletter.



"Body by Sullivan!" – PFC Robert Sullivan

Other than passing the time with our facial hair grooming, the Outlaws have continued a very busy mission load. For most of the month, we have spent five days a week on the road escorting 25th ID convoys wherever they needed to go. We have continued to maintain our standard of excellence in convoy operations and are constantly honing our battle drills. Always seeking to better themselves and the Platoon, SSG Parow and SPC Erick Lappi volunteered for, attended, and graduated from the Combat Lifesaver Course.



1LT Matt Keane hands candy and bottled water to a little girl; winning hearts and minds in Iraq.

1-62 ADAR Newsletter



SPC Luis Ruiz and PFC Robert Sullivan were afforded the opportunity to enjoy some well-deserved R&R at Lake Dokan in Northern Iraq. PFC Darian Carpenter is officially no longer a teenager as of May 1st and SFC Erron's daughter Aniya celebrated her birthday on the 25th.

We continue to focus on the mission at hand knowing that as each day ticks by we are one day closer to coming home to all of you and our beautiful island home.

In addition to being supported by our wonderful FRG, the Outlaws have recently been adopted by the Rotary Club of Windward Oahu. They have expressed their eagerness to support us in any way they can and we are just as excited to build a relationship with our new friends. We are receiving letters and packages from the "Any Soldier" project on a regular basis. We get fan mail from children in schools all over the United States and some of us get enough mail from our loved ones to share with the whole 2nd Brigade Combat Team. The support from everyone back home is overwhelming and makes our hearts swell with unbelievable pride. The support from back home is a key factor in making

the Outlaws the amazing Soldiers that they are. We thank you for your support and miss all of you.



SGT Michael Jones, SPC Sean Morgan, and SSG Trent Hill.

Respectfully,
1LT Douglas Matthew Keane
Platoon Leader, 1/B/1-62 ADA

THE VIPERS
nd 2nd Platoon
1LT James Crenshaw
Platoon Leader



Aloha, Mar-Haba and Greetings from the "Vipers." The best way to describe May is "Fast and Furious." The "Vipers" have a new home at FOB Warrior. Just like any move, we all experienced a little separation anxiety. We had become extremely confident about our surroundings and the people in the Tuz area. Nevertheless, change is good. We look forward to conducting missions in and meeting the people of Kirkuk. The "Vipers" said goodbye to FOB Bernstein with one final mission, a Relief-In-Place and a Transfer of Authority (RIPTOA) to National

Guard soldiers from N.C., W.VA and OH.



"Good bye FOB Bernstein, hello FOB Warrior." -- PFC Antonio Jackson, SPC Julio Renta, SPC Brandon Lovingood, PFC Garrick Billy and SPC Paul Fahlbeck

We leave FOB Bernstein and Tuz in good hands. Those events were successful and bittersweet. As I said, the past four months have flown by.



SPC Julius Davis, SPC Jose Ramos, SPC Angel Ortiz, and SPC Fahlbeck with honorary Vipers.

Now we have a new home and a new mission. We look forward to the next four months. We'll live near folks from our Battery. The Battery has welcomed us with open arms and support. We have reclaimed PV2 Billy from R&R. He definitely enjoyed himself. We know SPC Fahlbeck is currently enjoying his time away as well.

1-62 ADAR Newsletter



"ALOHA ..." -- Viper 6 and Viper 7

We have made a goal to come back better than when we left. You can expect that SSG Fields and I are dedicated to that goal. Your family members are important to us not only because they are our Soldiers, but we see 15 men with endless potential. Until next time, take care and God Bless everyone.



Our "Viper Soldier of the Month" is SPC (P) Angel Ortiz.

He's not only our commo expert; he's also my driver. Eat your heart out Jeff Gordon. Let's just say, he and I, along with other Soldiers in the platoon, had a particularly interesting day on 24 April 2004.

Additionally, due to his diligence and work ethic, SPC Ortiz will be promoted to Sergeant. He is a leader and expert in his field. He is definitely deserving of this achievement.

Viper 6/7 – Out!

Promotion

To Specialist -Paul Fahlbeck

**Birthdays**

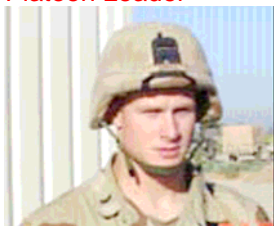
03 JUN - SPC Joshua Whitney
Khiara Fields.

**THE HELLRAISERS**

3rd Platoon

1LT Greg Sirko

Platoon Leader



Hello again. All the Hellraisers at FOB McHenry and FOB Gains Mills would like to thank you all for your continued love and support. We'd especially like to thank you for the banner we received this month with signatures and messages from all our friends and families. That banner now hangs proudly in our platoon command post. May has been another exciting month. We have seen a tremendous amount of progress in our Area of Operations. Not only



The pool boys roughing it out. – FOB Gainsmills Team

has security and stability improved, but the local populace has also begun to see a better standard of living. The main reason for these improvements is the daily activities of our Soldiers. Their competence and ability to accomplish all their missions has been the key to improving security in our area, and their daily interaction with the Iraqi people while on patrol has led to mutual feelings of trust and respect. Our mission is to help the Iraqi people rebuild their country, and during the month of May, the Hellraisers helped take a big step in that direction.

While our platoon as a whole continues to perform above my expectations, there is one Soldier I'd like to mention who has performed exceptionally well. Our "Hellraiser of the Month" for May is **PFC Jeffrey Jenkins**. As our



platoon mechanic, PFC

Jenkins has perhaps one of the most difficult jobs in the entire Battery. He has the responsibility of ensuring that all of our vehicles are ready for any mission at a moment's notice. His job spans eight vehicles at two separate locations. Every time I see PFC Jenkins I always notice two things. The first is that he is covered in dust and oil stains from the countless hours of work that he puts in on our vehicles. The second thing I notice, without exception, is that he always has a huge smile on his face. His commitment to his job and positive attitude have been critical to our success as a platoon and have earned us the reputation of having some of the most reliable vehicles in all of Task Force Wolfhound.



SGT David "Deadeye" Frye with SGT Todd "Coolio" Hobbs at 110 desert degrees and rising. Too easy!

Finally, as another month draws to an end we realize that we have come one month closer to the day when we will see you all again. The thought of seeing you all again is always in our mind and inspires us to do our job each and every day. Thank you all again for your love and support.

Birthday

28 MAY - PFC John Johnson

Anniversaries

25 MAY - The Hobbs'
22 JUN - The Crane's

NEWS FROM THE HOMEFRONT – The Family Readiness Group (FRG)



First of all, we would like to welcome our newest member of the family:
VICTORIA ALLISON HERRERA – Born on Mother's Day, May 10, 2004 to proud parents Anthony and Cheryl Herrera. Congratulations and Welcome to the Beast Family.

We had our monthly Family Readiness Group (FRG) meeting last Friday, May 21, at the ACS bldg to discuss fundraising issues, community-wide activities, safety and security concerns and a lot more information. We also passed out Certificates of Appreciation from the 25th ID to outstanding volunteers. Volunteering to help your community and FRG makes a lot of difference. It is a win-win situation all the time. To Bravo's volunteers, thank you and continue doing an awesome job. For those who are still thinking about it – now is the time – contact your POC

or your FRG leader.

Our "Adopt a Soldier/Platoon" program on a Battalion and Battery level is on full speed. Thanks to the generous donation of time, money and unwavering support from friends and family of Bravo Battery. Their gestures of love and support are greatly appreciated not only by the Soldiers, but their families as well.

In closing, there is still so much to accomplish. No one said that deployment will be easy – but with love, dedication, perseverance, and selfless driving force – we will all survive with flying colors. Be safe and strong! Everyone is doing a fantastic job. We can never be more proud than we already are.



We love you. Take care and keep in touch. We'll see you soon. God bless...

Aloha,
Your FRG Team

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR
1LT(P) Kelly J. Stewart

1-62 ADAR Newsletter



Air Defenders attached with 1-25 Aviation:
CPT Michael Dengler, 1LT (P) Kelly J. Stewart, SFC (P) Jonathan Sutton, SPC (P) Ivan Pagan, SPC John Shaw, SPC Jon Williams, and SPC Kevin McNeely

"Aim High!" from the Air Defenders supporting the 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment (Lightning Attack) and Aloha to our fellow comrades fighting all across Iraq, Afghanistan and our families back home. On 4 JAN 2004, seven Soldiers and Officers from 1-62 ADA were attached to 1-25 AVN Battalion, an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior Helicopter Battalion. We provide situational awareness to the 1-25 AVN command as they fight hard from the sky. It has been a very rewarding and educational experience working with this aviation unit.

Our venture into the theater started at Camp Udairi, Kuwait. There we conducted convoy training and prepared for our movement north. In early February we convoyed from Kuwait to the Baghdad International Airport where we spent about a month and a half under the command of the 1st Armored Division. During the first week of March, our Air Defense section moved ahead of the Battalion to Al Taji, Iraq, presently known as Camp Cooke. Here we began preparing work and living spaces for the rest of the

Battalion, as they followed us three weeks later. At present, we are working under the 1st Cavalry Division from Ft. Hood, Texas, predominantly conducting missions in and around Baghdad.

The Air Defenders here have represented the Aim High Battalion and the Air Defense Branch with the utmost distinction and honor. In fact, we have been recognized on numerous occasions. The discipline and work ethic of our Soldiers have been unparalleled and have contributed to the enormous success of the Battalion.

We want to thank everyone back home for your unconditional support to our efforts here in Iraq. Tough times are only made easier when you have the support of your loved ones. We look forward to our return home along with Beast Battery who is fighting hard to our north. We must also thank the families, Soldiers, and the 1-25 AVN's chain of command as they took us in with open arms and made us feel part of the team from the very start.

Birthday

18 JUN – SPC Ivan Pagan

Anniversary

Kelly and Jeanann Stewart (1st Anniversary)

THE REVEREND'S CORNER By SSG Jack Fields



I asked God why I wasn't rich. He showed me a man with the wealth of a thousand kings, who was lonely, and had no one to share it with. I asked God why I wasn't beautiful. He showed me a woman more beautiful than any other, who was ugly because of her vanity. I asked God why He'd allowed me to become old. He showed me a boy of 16, who lay dead at the scene of a car accident. I asked God why I didn't have a bigger house. He showed me a family of six, who had just been evicted from their tiny shack, and were forced to live on the street. I asked God why I had to work. He showed me a man, who couldn't find a decent job, because he'd never learned to read. I asked God why I wasn't more popular. He showed me a socialite with a thousand friends, who all left the moment the money and parties were no longer there. I asked God why I wasn't smarter. He showed me a natural born genius, serving life in prison for making ill use of his knowledge. I asked God why He put up with a thankless sinner like me. He showed me His Bible. He showed me His Son who took my place at the judgment. I knew then how much He loved me.

What's eating you today? Are your problems weighing heavy on your heart?

1-62 ADAR Newsletter

Know, then, that you are loved.
Have a WONDERFUL day!
Then brighten someone else's
day in any way you care to.

Remember, a candle loses
nothing by lighting another
candle. Just reach out and
touch someone's life and
brighten up his or her day. I've
Been Through The Storm, But
Look At Me
I'm Still Standing,
I'm Still Here.

Blessing for you,
Reverend Jack D. Fields Sr.

